

DUXBURY HISTORY FILE
REFERENCE

DUXBURY CLIPPER

Thursday, October 20, 1955

**Duxburyite Scalped
Hundred Years Ago**

(Here is an excerpt from a letter sent from San Francisco on Feb. 9, 1855, to William Dunham, father of Miss Annie D. Dunham of Island Creek.—Ed.)

"I write you this to inform you of the death of your brother, Chandler D. Dunham at Orleans Bar Klamath River. My partner and him was killed by the Indians while at work mining. Your brother lived 40 hours after he was wounded. He was sensible to the last. I have known your brother for the last two years. He was a worthy man. I took care of him until he died and buried him decently. He had a little money which he requested me to take home for him which I shall do this summer if I live. His last request was that I should take this money home to his friends myself and tell how he got killed. I write to his wife at the same time I write this. Yours respectfully, Francis Campbell.

"William J. Dunham of Island

Creek was the last to survive the Old Pilgrim Mining Co. Forty-niners, a young group who went to California in the first flush of the gold fever. The company sailed from Plymouth on the bark Yeoman, of Plymouth, Capt. James S. Clarke of Rochester commanding, and George Col'ingwood of this town as mate. The vessel was built here in 1833 and was a brig when launched but later charted to a bark rig. The departure was made Mar. 18, 1849, and the trip to San Francisco took 198 days."

William Dunham, born in Plymouth in 1831, was 85 when he died. He was the son of Jesse and Hannah Bagnell Dunham. Only 17 when he joined the gold rush, he and his two older brothers went on the Yeoman to California via Cape Horn. William, once an engineer on the Old Colony Railroad, was drafted into the Civil War. Wishing to serve in the Navy, he paid the bounty fee and became acting third assistant engineer aboard the Acacia and Queen. His first wife, Ann Hinkley died, and he married Martha Drew Loudon.

WANTED: Used play pen. Call Dux. 379.

mother of Miss Annie Dunham and William Dunham, Jr., the latter becoming a conductor on the New Haven. Miss Dunham was principal of schools in Arlington and Plymouth before her retirement.

(Apropos of the above account of Chandler Dunham's death, the Redcap Indians who murdered the six white men used rifles they had stolen. In a reprisal five Redcap Indians were killed.—Ed.)

Mrs. W. A. Beckert of Old Greenwich, Ct., is visiting her sister, Miss Bernice Porter of Tinkertown.

Stephen T. Whitney

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